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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAY 0 9 2003 TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Applicant:

George O'Toole et al.

Art Unit:

Not yet Assigned

Serial No.:

09/673,605

Examiner:

Not yet Assigned

Filed:

October 17, 2000

Title:

REGULATION OF BIOFILM FORMATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application as follows. 00000070 09673605

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In the Claims:

Please amend claims 23, 36, and 38 as follows.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 40 [22], wherein sad polypeptide is encoded by a Pseudomonas fluorescens sad gene.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein at least 5% [,10%, 25%, 50%,